



Atty. Dkt. No. 086531-0130

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Mikihide NAKAMARU *et al.*  
Title: REACTOR CORE AND  
METHOD FOR OPERATING  
NUCLEAR REACTOR  
Appl. No.: 09/978,308  
Filing Date: 10/17/2001  
Examiner: R. Palabrica  
Art Unit: 3641

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated April 30, 2004, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Applicants have enclosed with this amendment a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows:

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